

## "REDS" ACCUSE WIDOW BEFORE THE CORONER

Witnesses "Resolve" that Michael Bernstein Was Slain.

WOMAN IS INDIGNANT.

Autopsy Showed that He Had Killed Himself by Inhaling Gas.

Five persons visited Coroner Dooley today and told a story of their suspicions that Michael Bernstein, a Russian Nihilist, who was found dead in the basement of his home at No. 22 Henry street, had been killed with a hatchet by his wife, and that he did not commit suicide, as supposed.

The five accusers of the widow gave their names as Peter Lail, No. 34 East Thirty-third street; Randolph C. Mendel, No. 234 Kent avenue, Brooklyn; Julius Sirey, No. 185 Second avenue; Julius Sirey, No. 185 Second avenue, and his wife, Ella Sirey.

As a result of the remarkable story told by these five, Coroner Dooley notified the police of the Central Office and of the Madison Street Precinct to make an investigation, and he will hold an inquest either Thursday or a week from Thursday.

The man was found dead with a gas tube half way down his throat, and his death was supposed to be by suicide. The accused widow scoffs at the tale of her late husband's companions, says she cannot deny that she is glad her Nihilist husband is dead, and demands that his body, buried a week ago, be exhumed to prove her innocence.

**Suicide, Says Physician.** Dr. O'Hallion, who viewed the body, and the police of the Madison street station decided that Bernstein committed suicide.

Bernstein, being a Nihilist, belonged to the American Estonia Society, an anarchistic organization that meets at Beethoven Hall, on Fifth street. His fellow-members at a recent meeting heard evidence and voted that Bernstein's death was neither accidental nor suicidal.

They gave their president, Theodore Sary, of No. 12 Old Slip, certain instructions, and with these in mind he yesterday summoned the widow before him. She judged that the call would have something to do with the collection of \$50 insurance money which, according to the by-laws of the Nihilist society, was due her at her husband's death.

Instead, President Sary motioned her to a seat and in a gentle manner as possible told her what had occurred at the last meeting of the "boys."

"You killed Mike," said Sary. "They decided," he said, "that you killed Mike with a hatchet. They say that one of his arms was cut off and that it was laid beside his body in the coffin."

Mrs. Bernstein is in a fighting mood and a suit for slander is bound to grow out of the case.

Mrs. Bernstein is a stout little woman of most pleasing appearance. The deceased was her third husband. She owns the little house on Henry street, where her and her three children live. She is a music teacher and a member of St. James's Roman Catholic Church. The priests of the parish, Father O'Connor and Father Peeler, speak very highly of her. Her husband's Nihilist friends openly stated that Mrs. Bernstein's two former husbands also died sudden deaths.

The little woman talked with much animation about her troubles when seen at her home.

"Yes, Michael Bernstein was my third husband," she said. "My first was a Mr. Fisher. He died at his mother's home of heart disease. He left me one child, a girl.

Mrs. Bernstein's Three Husbands. "My second husband's name was Ball—Edward Ball, and he went away to the Philippines as a soldier. He said when he went away that I was too good a woman for a man like him."

"If I make good out in the Philippines," he said when he left, "I shall come back to you. If I do not you will never see me again. He went away and five years passed. I heard nothing from him and, although there never came any news of his death, I went before a Justice of the Supreme Court and got a divorce. Then I married Mike Bernstein, and a curse had been on me and mine since that day."

"Before three months had passed he began to complain about the children. He beat and abused them. I have seen him pick them up by the hair of their heads."

"He wanted me to sign over the house and my bank account to him, and when I refused he became violent. I lived in terror of my life. I prayed that the Almighty might take one of us."

"He set the house afire and again told me that he would buy 20 cents' worth of dynamite and blow us all to the bad place."

"Mr. Bernstein drank to excess, and while taking a Russian bath about a week before his death he fell across a stove and burned his arm severely. I attended him and I scolded him severely for drinking. On Wednesday night he went into the basement and fixed up a bed in the kitchen."

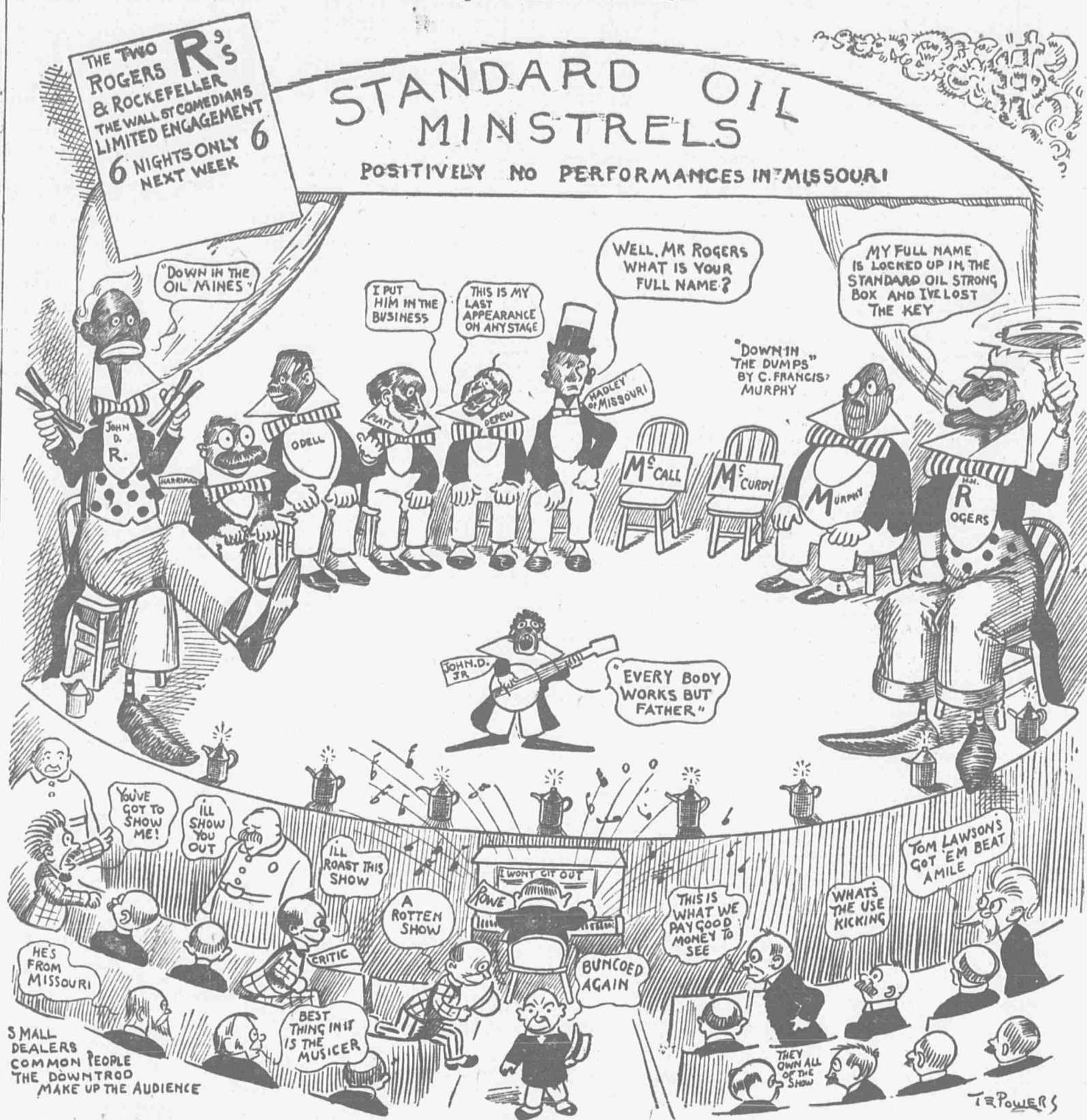
"I went downstairs in the evening before I retired to get a pitcher of water and found the door bath about a week before his death he fell across a stove and burned his arm severely. I attended him and I scolded him severely for drinking. On Wednesday night he went into the basement and fixed up a bed in the kitchen."

Sunday World Wants

Work Monday Wonders

## END-MEN STARS OF THE MINSTREL SHOW.

By T. E. POWERS.



## CITY SHIVERS, BUT RATHER ENJOYS IT

First Touch of Winter Will Stay with Us a Day or Two, Weather Man Says.

Earlars and mufflers are in order today. The Government weather sharp's testimony that the mercury went down to within four degrees of the zero mark in the early morning, and has not rallied to any appreciable extent, is not needed by New Yorkers to prove to them that it is cold.

The upper avenues are ajangle with bells, while laughing girls and red noses enjoy the first sleighing of the season, and the small boy and his sweet little sister, muffled to the eyes, are holding high carnival with their handiwork all over town.

There are only two and a fifth inches of snow on the level, but with the city's smooth surfaced streets and a continuous freezing temperature it is enough for the very best "slipping."

The weather sharp says it will stay so until to-morrow night, with a clear, bracing atmosphere and a pale-faced but determined sun.

It will be a trifle colder to-night and the surface and "L" cars will continue to be just like something else than cozy corners by the fire.

The cold streak extends clear down to the Gulf coast. Up in New England and in Northern New York it is at zero and below.

The first cold snap of the winter here got two victims in the early morning. Charles Jackenbors, of No. 22 West Twenty-eighth street, was found at the foot of the door at No. 30 Bax and taken to the hospital.

Found with Hands and Feet Frozen. The body of a man, found in the vestibule of the apartment at No. 315 East One Hundred and Fourth street this morning, was taken to Lincoln Hospital in a serious condition.

Policeman Gabel, of the Alexander Avenue Police Station, found the man. He was in a semi-conscious condition, and told the officer he was in great pain. He could not account for his being in the condition he was found.

Government to Exhibit. WASHINGTON, JAN. 8.—At the National Dairy Show, to be held at Chicago Feb. 15, there will be an exhibit of milk and cream under the direction of the dairy division of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The dairy division has secured space at the show and proposes to call for exhibits of unpasteurized milk and cream, free from preservatives.

## DIED TO DEATH FROM THE ROOF OF HIS HOUSE

Frazier Plunged Head First Into Shed Four Stories Below.

Stories Below.

Joseph Frazier, fifty-nine years old and weighing 200 pounds, dived from the top of the house where he lived, at No. 303 West Twenty-first street, to-day and down four floors to a shed roof. He plunged head first half way through the roof of the shed. There his body stuck and it took four policemen half an hour to get him out. His brains had been dashed out by the impact.

Julius Schmidt, the near-sighted janitor of the house, was shoveling snow from the narrow alleyway from the house and No. 301 next door. Through the ear flaps of his coat came the sound of a crash, seemingly above his head somewhere.

"Somebody dropped a coal scuttle out the back window," said Schmidt, to himself, and went on pecking at the banked snow.

But just then a man's hat floated down between the buildings and dropped at his feet.

"Curious," said Schmidt. He walked back into the court, behind the building to investigate a bit. On the roof of the one-story extension he saw a dark bulk. He called a boy from the house next door.

Boy Brings Police. "What is that?" asked the janitor of the boy, pointing to the shed roof. "It looks like a pair of pants to me."

"It's a man's legs—that's what it is," replied the boy, excitedly. Schmidt told him to run for a policeman.

The boy came back in a minute or two with four of them—Nevins, Seymour, Schme and Melnickin, all good stout patrolmen from the West Twentieth Street Station. The four went up on the shed roof. There they worked for nearly thirty minutes before they drew the mangled body free.

Frazier had left his wife and child in their rooms in the third floor and climbed the stairs and gone out through the scuttle to the roof. Then he had walked to the coping to the rear and jumped off. His tracks in the snow helped to tell the story.

Dr. Cottle arrived from the New York Hospital before the policeman had the body out. He said Frazier must have died instantly.

Frazier for years had run a cigar store under the firm name of William E. Frazier, a cigar dealer, and when he married Frazier, after Elting's death, they continued to carry on the business under the old firm name.

After the body had been removed tenants of nearby houses testified to seeing Frazier take the fatal leap. They said he walked to the coping, knelt as if in prayer a moment, and then dived head first, with his hands extended in front of him like a man diving into deep water.

Mrs. Frazier said her first husband was William E. Frazier, a cigar dealer, and when she married Frazier, after Elting's death, they continued to carry on the business under the old firm name.

Frazier had a son by his first marriage who gave him a good deal of trouble. Mrs. Frazier said he disappeared three years ago.

## DAMAGED WARSHIP RIDES OUT GALES

Alabama Puts Into Virginia Harbor and Found Not Much Hurt by Collision.

(Special to The Evening World.)

PORTSMOUTH, Va., Jan. 9.—The battle-ship Alabama arrived at the Navy-Yard here to-day to have her injuries, sustained in the collision with the battle-ship Kentucky while the fleet was leaving New York harbor Sunday, repaired.

The Alabama was assigned to the identical berth at the navy-yard which was occupied by the Kentucky when she was here a few weeks ago fitting out for the voyage to the Caribbean Sea.

It is estimated that it will take only about a couple of days to repair the damage sustained by the big battleship when she struck her consort, a glancing blow in attempting to get out of her way. The damage to the Alabama is not badly disfiguring.

This is her first visit to this Navy-Yard, and salutes were exchanged between the vessel and the Navy-Yard.

She rode out a stiff gale while anchored in Hampton Roads last night.

HID WIFE'S DEATH FROM STRICKEN MAN.

Winner, Assistant Treasurer of Museum of Natural History, Is in Critical Condition.

John H. Winner, assistant treasurer of the Museum of Natural History, of this city, is in a critical condition at St. Francis Hospital, Jersey City, suffering from pneumonia. The funeral of his wife, who succumbed to the disease on Friday last, was held to-day, from the home of the Winners, No. 33 Claremont avenue, Jersey City.

When Mr. Winner was stricken his wife was reported as doing fairly well, and he insisted on kissing her good-by, but he was prevailed upon to not do so, as she had not been informed of his illness and the shock was feared.

This was at noon on Friday. Three hours later Mrs. Winner died, without knowing of her husband's condition.

C. W. POST talks about Labor Unions and other trusts in "The Square Deal."

\$1.00 a year. The Square Deal, St. James Bldg., New York.

News Stands, 10c.

He constantly asked news of her condition, and was not informed of the death until yesterday.

## DIED BY GAS AS SHE KNELT BY CHILDREN

Mrs. Mayer, Worn Out by Long Vigils, Sought Death for All.

Worn out by her ceaseless vigils over her eldest child, ill with influenza, and in a moment of complete nervous exhaustion, Mrs. Bridget Mayer, wife of a sugar refiner, to-day committed suicide in her home, No. 58 Hope street, Williamsburg.

Smelling the fumes of escaping gas, Mrs. Durkin, who lives on the floor above, went downstairs and, bursting in Mrs. Mayer's door, found her kneeling in the attitude of prayer beside the bed of her three children—Frank, the sick one, aged four; Anna, three, and Frances, six years old.

The room was filled with gas, coming in volumes from a pipe in the kitchen adjoining, from which had been detached the tube connecting with a gas range.

Mrs. Durkin plugged the gas pipe, threw open the windows, and then sought to arouse the kneeling mother and children.

Mrs. Mayer was dead and the children were stupefied. Mrs. Durkin called the police and Mrs. Leopold and Baxter were summoned from the Williamsburg Hospital. They succeeded in reviving the children after an hour of work, though little Frank is still in a precarious condition. All three children were taken to the hospital.

Lewis Mayer, the husband and father, was brought from the Williamsburg refinery, where he is employed, and when he reached his home and the full realization of the desolation of it all came to him, he was frenzied with grief.

In calmer moments he stated that his wife had been the constant attendant on little Frank for many days and nights. She was up with the child all night, and had scarcely slept for several nights. She was quite exhausted and he was apprehensive when he left for his work this morning that he would break down, thought he had apprehended that she would lose her mind and seek to take her own life and those of her babes.

Two Died in Snowstorm. SANTA FE, N. M., JAN. 9.—James Yates, living near White Oaks, Lincoln County, a half-blind ranchman, perished in a snowstorm yesterday. His body was discovered in a snowdrift two miles from his cabin. As a pillow he had used his hat and scarf, and his hands were folded on his breast in an attitude of prayer. Charles Newton, a sixteen-year-old goat herder, died in the snowstorm in the Sacramento Mountains.

## WISSEL'S FATE IS IN THE BALANCE

Bermel Tries to See the Mayor in His Behalf and Is Turned Down.

Mayor McClellan, to all practical purposes, to-day administered a snub to Borough President Bermel, of Queens. The latter had come over to Manhattan in the morning with Charles C. Wissel, the Deputy Water Commissioner of Queens, to explain to Commissioner William B. Ellison charges made against him in some of the papers.

The charges were in effect that at one time Wissel ran a resort in Queens County, that on one occasion he forcibly ejected a woman from the place, for which she had him arrested; that he was fined \$5 in a police court; that his license was taken away from him, and that he compromised a civil suit on the assault case for \$300.

Borough President Bermel was anxious to save Wissel and he accompanied him to Commissioner Ellison's office. At the close of the investigation the Commissioner said that he had heard the stories of both and had sent them back to bring him proof of the statements they had made.

No Statement Made. Wissel would not make any statement beyond a general denial of the story, and that an attempt was being made to blackmail him by a well-known politician of Queens.

After leaving the Water Commissioner's office in the Park Row Building the two hurried over to the City Hall. After waiting an hour or more Borough President Bermel managed to get word to the Mayor that he was there with Wissel.

"I do not want to see them," was the Mayor's reply. "Tell them to go back to Commissioner Ellison. It is up to him. Wissel is his appointee, and I have nothing whatever to do with it. Everything is in his hands. I presume that when he gets fully through with his investigation the Commissioner will see me. Until he does, it is not up to me to take any action."

No Appointments Made. Both the Borough President and Deputy Commissioner Wissel left the City Hall much crestfallen. It looks bad for Wissel, according to the politicians. The Mayor had no appointments to announce. He said he did not believe that the First Deputy Police Commissioner would be named for awhile.

"Commissioner Bingham is going slow on the subject and up with it fully satisfied that he has the right man no announcement will be made."

There will be a material increase in the tax rate, according to the Mayor, who is employed at the increase in taxation proper to the city.

"What we will have to come to in time," he said, "is a stationary tax rate, on the same basis as in London and other old cities. Of course, that may take fifty or one hundred years, but eventually it must come to it."

## MAYER DIGGING INTO STATE TAX FRAUD CHARGES

White, Who Made Them, Retires, Demanding a Legislative Inquiry.

(Special to The Evening World.)

ALBANY, Jan. 8.—James W. Osborne, who ran against Jerome on the Tammany ticket last fall for District Attorney, appeared before Attorney-General Mayer to-day to press the charges made by Frank White, the corporation lawyer, against John J. Merrill, chief of the corporation tax department in the Comptroller's office.

Mr. White alleges that Merrill's management of the Tax Bureau has cost the State hundreds of thousands of dollars, and that the accused official favored in his determination of corporation assessments certain tax experts who at one time another had been employed in the State Comptroller's department.

Mr. White, pale and gaunt and apparently suffering from nervous prostration, was on hand at the hearing with his counsel, Lewis E. Carr.

In opening the hearing the Attorney-General made it plain that he will affix the charges against Merrill to the bottom.

"This is a grave matter," he remarked. "And if the accused official is guilty that fact should be promptly known and he should not be allowed to remain in office a single day."

A general denial of the charges was made by Merrill to the State Comptroller.

Before proceeding counsel for Mr. White asked for a brief adjournment in order that they might have an opportunity to ascertain the law on the subject and get acquainted with the facts in the case. Mr. Osborne said he had been retained only this morning. The Attorney-General consented to grant them half an hour.

Mr. Osborne demands that the validity of the sworn reports filed by agents of the corporations with Merrill be inquired into, as it is intimated in several cases that officers making affidavits committed perjury.

Merrill's case is determined to limit the investigation, if he can, to the acts of Merrill himself, barring any inquiry into the management of the reports. Attorney Osborne's purpose in going back of the reports is to find out whether there was any collusion between the corporations, and their agents and Merrill.

The Attorney-General, it was argued, could not conduct an effective investigation, owing to his lack of authority to administer oaths, issue subpoenas and compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of the books of corporations.

It is now thought that the Democratic legislature will call for a resolution to-morrow night, calling for a legislative investigation of the charges, but eventually it must come to it.

## NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE CO.

ALEXANDER E. ORR, President.

BALANCE SHEET, JANUARY 1, 1906.

ASSETS.		LIABILITIES.	
Government, State, City, County and other Bonds (market value, \$323,445,307), cost value, Dec. 31, 1905.	\$317,996,895	Policy Reserve (per certificate of New York Insurance Dept.)	\$375,082,390
(Company does not include in Assets the excess \$5,448,472 of market value of Bonds owned over cost.)		All other Liabilities on Policies, Annuities, Endowments, &c., awaiting presentation for payment	7,902,343
Bonds and Mortgages (370 first liens).	25,586,644	Reserve on Policies which the Company voluntarily sets aside in excess of the State's requirements.	\$7,208,412
Deposits in 475 Banks throughout the world.	14,717,929	Reserve to provide Dividends payable to Policyholders during 1906 and thereafter, as the periods mature.	
Loans to Policyholders on Policies as security (reserve value thereof, \$65,000,000).	45,406,669	To holders of 20-Year Period Policies and longer.	29,180,987
Real Estate, 23 pieces (including eleven office buildings, valued at \$10,940,000).	14,021,863	To holders of 15-Year Period Policies	5,134,418
Quarterly and Semi-Annual Premiums not yet due, reserve charged in Liabilities.	4,130,174	To holders of 10-Year Period Policies	32,016
Premium Notes on Policies in force (Legal Reserve to secure same \$6,000,000).	3,682,341	To holders of 7-Year Period Policies	128,177
Premiums in transit, Reserve charged in Liabilities.	4,107,578	To holders of 5-Year Period Policies	417,068
Interest and Rents accrued.	2,664,266	To holders of Annual Dividend Policies	896,497
Loans on Bonds (market value, \$4,247,900).	3,250,000	Reserve to provide for all other contingencies	9,549,051
Due Company on account of re-insurance.	56,000	Total (not including \$5,448,472 excess of market value of Bonds owned over cost).	52,835,626
<b>Total Assets.</b>	<b>\$435,820,359</b>	<b>Total Liabilities.</b>	<b>\$435,820,359</b>

Income of 1905, \$102,630,863.85  
Loaned Policy-Holders during 1905, 17,164,702.71  
Paid Policy-Holders during 1905, 40,262,039.83  
Increase in Assets during 1905, 45,160,099.58  
Number of Policies paid for during 1905, 157,540; representing new insurance of 296,640,854.00  
Outstanding Insurance at end of 1905, 2,061,593,886.00  
Increase in Insurance in Force during 1905, 132,000,000.00  
Decrease in expenses of 1905 over the preceding year, more than 1,000,000.00

The affairs of the Company are now being officially examined by the States of Kentucky, Minnesota, Nebraska, Wisconsin and Tennessee. In addition, Messrs. Price, Waterhouse & Co., of London, and Messrs. Haskins & Sells, of New York, Chartered Accountants, are now conducting an examination and audit of the Company's accounts for the last calendar year and are preparing a statement of the Company's financial condition as of December 31, 1905.

Concerning the work they have already accomplished, they have made the following certificate:

TO THE NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, New York:

Under instructions received from the Committee appointed by the Trustees to investigate the affairs of this Company, we are conducting an examination and audit of its accounts for the last calendar year, and are preparing a statement of its financial condition as of December 31, 1905.

We have at this date verified the following assets:

INVESTMENTS IN BONDS.—We have examined and counted \$272,465,225.19 par value of the Bonds owned by the Company deposited in the vaults at the Home Office, and have inspected the documentary evidence in the Company's possession of additional Bonds deposited with State and foreign governments amounting to \$46,585,842.99 par value. These will in due course be verified by certificates which the custodians have been requested to furnish.

The total par value of these Bonds is \$319,051,068.18; the book value is \$317,996,895.44; and the market value, which we have verified, is \$323,445,367.62.

MORTGAGE LOANS ON REAL ESTATE.—We have compared the Real Estate Loans on Mortgage with the documents on file, consisting of the Bond and Mortgage given by the mortgagor. These loans amount to \$25,586,644.21.

LOANS ON COLLATERAL.—We have examined the collateral or Certificates of Depositaries therefor held by the Company to secure these loans, which amount to \$3,250,000.00. The market value of the securities deposited amounts to \$4,242,900.00; and

We hereby certify that these Assets agree with the books of the Company and are correct; we are now verifying the remainder of the assets.

PRICE, WATERHOUSE & CO., Chartered Accountants.

HASKINS & SELLS, Certified Public Accountants.

New York, January 6, 1906. By A. Lofes Dickinson, F. C. A., F. L. A., G. P. A. (Ill.)

By Elijah W. Sells, C. P. A.

The Company publishes for the information of its policy-holders a detailed description of its Assets in pamphlet form, which will be mailed to any address upon request.